

been a lot safer inside and there was a floor that was devoted to sleeping quarters. They even had cots for people to use. Yesterday the two staff members had told us we could come in the building and use the showers. When we tried to do this, security would not let us near the building and security would not call the two staff members inside. This is crazy. We are good enough to sit outside during a hurricane to be on call to provide evacuation transportation. Yet, we are treated like criminals when we try to get in to use the showers. On the door there is a sign about a national news conference at 2 p.m. I tell the other three drivers with me that we will receive orders to move before 1:30 p.m.

Sure enough, at 1:30 p.m. we are given orders to move to the staging area at Le Place. The FEMA staff didn't want us parked near the building when the press conference was taking place.

We follow orders and head to Le Place to report in and top off the fuel tanks. There is water everywhere from all the rain. At Le Place we drive through water to report in. Once again the orders are to park and wait. We spend more time driving around empty and waiting for orders than we do working. Nothing is going to happen the rest of today. In the parking area there are city buses from Atlanta, GA. They were asked to come to the area to help move people. Thus far they have done nothing but sit and wait. We said welcome to the crowd.

Nightfall comes with no place to obtain lodging. However, there are a couple of restaurants open in the area and we can get a good meal. We spend our evening talking with other drivers and listening to all of the frustration just sitting around. This frustration builds larger each day as you see resources sitting idle.

September 25.

We are tired and weary from spending the past six nights trying to sleep in the coach. This morning we are able to take a shower at the truck stop. The \$9.00 to get a shower is worth every cent.

I sure wouldn't pay it.

After showers, we meet with the drivers of the other eight coaches we were with in Baton Rouge. As we are talking the dispatcher gives us orders to drive into New Orleans. We are going to be moving a National Guard unit out of New Orleans to the area where Rita has gone through.

After taking most of the morning it get organized the unit is ready to move out. We will be bringing up the rear of the convoy. Our route will be I-10 to Lafayette where the unit has been reassigned. I have discovered that these orders were issued at 1 a.m. this morning and it took eight hours for them to move through channels to us and the military. What an amazing chain of command. The commander of the unit fills us in on the route and how to drive in a convoy. The members of the unit are very happy to ride in the air conditioned coach. Upon arrival in Lafayette they set up a command center at an old Service Master store. We have to wait until the command releases us before we can go back to Le Place. The afternoon goes by slowly as we wait to be released from duty. The commander holds us as he sees no reason to be stationed in Lafayette as they have very little damage. Once again, I want to ask who is in charge. About 9 p.m. we are released to go back to Le Place.

Arriving in Le Place we find hundreds of coaches parked and waiting for orders. This brings back all the thoughts about wasteful use of resources. Our time is up; we need to head back to Iowa. I make the arrangements to be released and we head out for home.

September 26

Another long night of driving and we finally get home, a very tired group. This has proved to be another growing experience. Sleeping every night in the motorcoach, only getting one good meal a day, and only having two showers all week. We all learned a lot about ourselves and what we are able to do when needed.

The hardest thing to accept this trip was sitting out the hurricane in the motorcoach. It is very difficult to understand and accept the fact that we were not allowed in the FEMA building during the hurricane. Good enough to be a safety valve, but not good enough to be allowed in the building.

Hopefully, at some point in the future I will have an opportunity to share with the right folks and work with them to improve the system and the way it works as it relates to motorcoaches. Especially in the area of equipment safety and using motorcoaches to move large numbers of people in an emergency.

That is the end of his diary. He ends with a little paragraph that says:

Thoughts of Craig Van Waardhuizen while working through the Katrina and Rita hurricanes in LA. I was lead member of a four member team providing motorcoach service with two motorcoaches. I am a Terminal Manager and Operations Director for Northwest Iowa Transportation, Inc (a motorcoach carrier in Iowa with membership in UMA, ABA and IMG).

Craig Van Waardhuizen.

I thank my friend Craig for sharing his experiences with the people of the Nation through this, but most importantly for the Senate and my Senate colleagues to take this into consideration.

#### PRAIRIE LAKES RESPONDS TO HURRICANE KATRINA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have one additional statement in regard to the Katrina situation.

As I said earlier before I read Craig's diary, I am a member of the Prairie Lakes Baptist Church at Cedar Falls, IA. Immediately after Katrina, our church in the following 3 weeks sent three different delegations—in other words, three different teams; a team the first week, a different team the second week, and a different team the third week—to go down to Brookhaven, MS, and help the First Baptist Church in Ocean Springs, MS, in their efforts to feed people who were in need and house people who were in need and do other things.

I have this letter which was sent to the pastor of our church, Pastor John Fuller, from the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Oceans Springs, MS.

It says:

Dear Pastor:

I have never had the privilege of meeting you—but I know you because I have experienced the heart of your people. Mark Sherwood, Mike and Denise Goyen, Dalen Grimm, indeed the entire crew from Prairie Lakes Church manifested the heart of Mary, the hands of Martha, the hope of Jesus.

My wife and I count our Iowa volunteers as among the best of the best. They worked hard, they were sensitive to the people's broken hearts, and they were a blessing to our church, especially to my family and me.

It is my desire to come to Iowa, to thank you and your people for the job well done.

Mike Barnett.

I ask unanimous consent to have that statement printed in the RECORD, along with the list of the people from my church who were in teams 1, 2 and 3, as well as an article from the Waterloo Courier which talks about this.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### PRAIRIE LAKES RESPONDS TO HURRICANE KATRINA

DEAR PASTOR: I have never had the privilege of meeting you—but I know you because I have experienced the heart of your people. Mark Sherwood, Mike and Denise Goyen, Dalen Grimm, indeed the entire crew from Prairie Lakes Church manifested the heart of Mary, the hands of Martha and the hope of Jesus.

My wife and I count our Iowa volunteers as among the best of the best. They worked hard, they were sensitive to people's broken hearts, and they were a blessing to our church, especially to my family and me.

It is my desire to come to Iowa, to thank you and your people for a job well done.

Sincerely,

MIKE BARNETT,  
Pastor of First Baptist Church,  
Ocean Springs, MS.

#### TEAM 1

Mark Badura; Jared Coffin; Steve Coffin; Kellie Dean; Michelle Ford; Adam Graber; Crystal Halverson; Mary Jungling; Nancy Killian; Georgianne Meester; Paul Neal; William Pierce; Mark Sherwood; Jerry Steele; Sara Steele; Andrew Zaug; Randy Zey; and Rob Zey.

#### TEAM 2

Mackenzie Carlisle; Bret Ford; Ally Fuller; Denise Goyen; Mike Goyen; Pat Haley; Ramon Harp; Holly Hartley; Bethany Pals; Mary Pals; Laney Poyner; Mark Sherwood; Julie Starbeck; Katie Trautmann; Lynn Trautmann; Beth Wion; and Rick Wion.

#### TEAM 3

Barb Braun; Erica Braun; Mike Campbell; Lori Edgerton; Steve Ephraim; Kelly Erickson; Lyndsey Fabel; Denise Goyen; Mike Goyen; Dalen Grimm; Kimberly Hansen; Jean Johnson; Gayle Kucera; Bailey Leymaster; Jessica Lippold; Aaron Merken; Rebekah Morris; Jeff Norton; Lauren Page; Joel Palmer; Jessie Paulson; Jeremy Sherwood; Mark Sherwood; Dean Smock; Judy Smock; Jenna Wheatly; and Ellie Zieser.

#### MISSION OF MERCY

#### CEDAR FALLS CHURCH MEMBERS HELP EVACUEES IN MISSISSIPPI (By Karen Heinselman)

BROOKHAVEN, MS.—Homeseekers paradise. That's how Lincoln County residents partial to Brookhaven introduce the southwest Mississippi town to strangers. "It might not look like it, but people like living here," boasted Clifford Britt, manager of the Brookhaven Lincoln County Airport.

A 17-person crew from Prairie Lakes Church in Cedar Falls in town to help with hurricane relief hasn't had time to assess Brookhaven's best features. They drove in late Tuesday. They do have a deeper understanding of the disaster they are facing as they share meals and conversation with survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

"All I've talked to have lost everything," said Nancy Killian, 58, of Cedar Falls. "We mingle with them, give hugs when we can."

Located 100 miles north of New Orleans, Brookhaven has been an outpost for some 1,600 people displaced by the hurricane, said Mayor Bob Massingill. Many evacuees have

moved on, but hundreds at the city's six shelters still need housing.

One hub of activity is Easthaven Southern Baptist Church, a shelter for 110, although for a time it served more than twice that number. Former Cedar Falls resident Merrill Oster initiated the relationship between Prairie Lakes and Easthaven. He learned of Easthaven's challenge from family members at that church. He called friends in the Cedar Valley who were looking for a way to help.

The population in this town of 12,000 has swelled with survivors and relief workers.

Members of the Indiana National Guard, shouldering M16s, are on hand to keep the peace and lend a hand. And then there are the volunteers. Red Cross workers and Christians from Tennessee have moved into Easthaven Baptist Church. And now the Prairie Lakes contingent has arrived.

Prairie Lakes is partnering with Easthaven Baptist Church to help with shelter and a transitional housing project. The Cedar Falls church will send two more teams of volunteers in the next two weeks.

"We kind of answered the call to love people," said Adam Graber, 23, Waterloo.

The warm Mississippi air was thick with humidity and "love bugs" when volunteers started work Wednesday.

Men and women spent hours cutting and raking tall grass at a former trailer home park, preparing the way for 14 travel trailers. The units were purchased by Oster from Ace Fogdall RV.

Oster orchestrated the project Trailers, which will house displaced families, were filled with sheets, pots, pans and other amenities by Prairie Lakes and Cedar Heights Baptist congregations in Cedar Falls in two days.

Kim Oster of Easthaven Baptist, related by marriage to Merrill Oster, said evacuees have brought new life to her church, built specifically eight years ago to serve as a disaster shelter. The joyful but weary servants at Easthaven welcomed help from strangers up north.

"We needed manpower. We really needed people to work," she said.

Trailer lots are rent-free for six months. Organizers hope that is enough time for evacuees to achieve independence. Five homes also are being prepared for family use.

About \$157,000 has been raised toward the \$300,000 project.

On Wednesday, Cedar Valley and Mississippi volunteers began preparations for sewer, water and electricity at the trailer park. At first, workers had trouble locating the existing water line. Some Iowa jaws dropped as a tall and lanky Mississippi man slowly walked back and forth across the grass. Billy Crider strolled with arms outstretched, hands clutching metal sticks that pulled toward an underground line. The former Entergy Corp. employee was retired for more than 5 years when he was called up by his company to help after the hurricane.

Bystander Ron Williamson, a retired area school teacher and volunteer cook at the shelter, vouched for the accuracy of divining rods before ducking away to cook chicken for the evening meal for evacuees and volunteers.

"I love 'em God bless 'em all," Williamson said.

Volunteers are grateful to understanding employers and teachers for letting them serve in the South, and for the sponsorship of their churches.

Sara, 27, and Jerry Steele, 30, of Lytham, England extended a visit with family in Iowa to make the trek south. Delta Airlines let them delay their travel plans without extra fees. Jared Coffin, 14, is missing class at Hoover Middle School in Waterloo. He finished most of his homework on the 16-hour drive south.

"They need people down here to do things like this. They need people to donate clothes. It's just a matter of getting plugged in," Coffin said "We're going to be here for awhile."

Some Cedar Valley volunteers hoped to spend more time in the shelter's kitchen and were surprised to learn more help was available than expected. Some mentioned trekking further south if the need is greater there, added Steve Coffin, 51, of Cedar Falls.

"We're just getting started," said Mark Sherwood, volunteer coordinator from Cedar Falls. "Every day can be different."

Brookhaven experienced tree damage and power outages but was spared the destruction suffered by her southern neighbors.

"We've been inconvenienced, but their lives have changed," said Massingill the mayor. "People are ready to go back to their homes."

But not everyone can.

Despite what the highway signs near Brookhaven say, Kenner, La., evacuees Herbert Lange and his wife, Cynthia, weren't looking for paradise when they arrived at Easthaven Baptist. They just wanted a safe place to wait for the storm to pass and the water to recede so insurance and property issues can be resolved. Housed in a Sunday school room and fed three times a day, the Langes are convinced they have a little piece of heaven.

#### HONORING BARBARA GRASSLEY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, October is Breast Cancer Month, and I wish to honor my wife, who is an 18-year survivor of breast cancer.

I don't often speak about this, but October is the month to raise money and bring attention to the plight of those who have breast cancer, most often with the idea in mind of adding to research for a cure of breast cancer.

My only opportunity to participate in this, besides a few remarks I make, is the second Saturday of October in Des Moines, IA, they have a 5K to raise money. Sixteen thousand of us participated in that 5K fundraiser in Des Moines, IA. I have nothing to brag about because it took me 28 minutes 6 seconds, but I was glad to have the opportunity to help raise money for the cause.

This morning, I would like to read a speech for my wife Barbara Grassley—today happens to be her 73rd birthday—about her personal challenge with breast cancer. Today is my wife's birthday, and it is fitting that we celebrate her victory over this.

Barbara's story is a familiar one. She had many busy years raising our five children, helping run the family farm, particularly during those years that I was in the State legislature, busy participating in community and church activities, and even at age 50 going back and finishing her BA degree at the University of Northern Iowa. Barbara never worried about her own health. Then one casual visit to do a free cholesterol screening led to a doctor's visit for a physical exam. It was an appointment that changed her life. She was diagnosed with breast cancer. Just 10 days later, she had a modified radical mastectomy at Covenant Hos-

pital in Waterloo. That was 18 years ago.

We are fortunate that her breast cancer was detected early. We know with certainty that early detection can dramatically increase a woman's chance of defeating breast cancer. That is true for women like Barbara who have a family medical history working against them. Parenthetically, I think five out of six of my wife's aunts on her mother's side had breast cancer as well.

The need for routine mammograms cannot be repeated too often. Baseline mammograms and regular screening are key to saving the lives of the thousands of women who develop this disease each year.

As her husband and as a Senator, I follow closely the legislative commitment made to breast cancer research, education, and prevention. I am proud to be cosponsor of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. This bill before the HELP Committee would allow the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants to develop centers across the country. These centers will help conduct research on the environmental factors that may be related to breast cancer. I hope the HELP Committee will consider this bill as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we must focus our efforts on finding a cure. In the past week, there have been breakthroughs on cancer research. Every day, we get one step closer to overcoming this disease.

This month is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I hope men and women will take the opportunity to talk to their loved ones about getting a mammogram and preventing breast cancer. I hope we can continue to raise awareness of this disease for the sake of every mother, spouse, sister, daughter, and granddaughter in this world.

I remind people especially of the luck of my wife going to that early detection. She went for just one of these community screenings. She didn't go to the doctor with any idea she would have anything wrong; she just went there and there were some questions raised. Every opportunity you have to take a quick one, if there is something wrong that can lead to the routine mammogram, you should do it because that surely made a difference in my wife's condition at the time. Early detection is so important.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Idaho.

#### DEFICIT SPENDING AND COST OF KATRINA

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, for the last few minutes, I have listened with great interest to the Senator from Iowa reading a diary of the experience of a dedicated volunteer, obviously, to help out with Katrina victims in Louisiana and Mississippi. I found it most